

## SCENES IN NEW BOHEMIA



BOHEMIANS MAKE LOVELY HOMES.



THE BOHEMIANS' CHURCH AND PASTOR'S HOME.

BOHEMIAN COLONY  
NEAR PETERSBURG

New Bohemia and How the New Tillers of Soil Have Prospered.

BY F. H. LA BAUME.

I made a trip down to Petersburg the other day to meet some friends who were to take me out to the prosperous, thriving Bohemian colony, lying east of Petersburg and covering an area of several thousand acres. My friend, James E. Cuthbert, president of the Pyle & Company Association, was waiting for us with his car and we immediately started for the centre of the colony at New Bohemia in Dinwiddie county. On the way we stopped at the homes of several of the most prosperous Bohemian farmers, including Joseph Wagner, Joseph Machat, Paul Kutchan, Frank Kvasnicka and J. V. Hanzlik. These men are leaders in the community, and their farms average from two hundred and fifty acres to twelve or fifteen hundred acres, each.

## Wonderful Prosperity.

Paul Kutchan, a Bohemian farmer, and one of the most prosperous in Dinwiddie county, has a farm of five or six hundred acres with a substantial buildings, as good live stock, as lovely orchards and farm crops as can be found anywhere in the United States, and he has made it all in the last ten or fifteen years, since coming to Virginia. His property to-day is easily worth forty or fifty thousand dollars, and I doubt if he would sell it at that price.

Joseph Machat and Louis Malon also have excellent farms. They were the first Bohemian settlers to come to this section, and are looked upon as leaders in their community to-day.

All of the farmers named above, with dozens of others, are prosperous and contented in their new home, and the colony has a total of over 1,000 people. They are practically all farmers, and nearly all own their farms. They have been especially successful with peanuts, which generally yield from thirty-five to one hundred bushels per acre and sell at an average price of \$1 per bushel.

General Farmers They Are. They also raise the general farm crops in abundance, including corn, hay, wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables. All of the farmers have live stock, and generally keep a good supply of hogs, cattle, sheep and chickens. Their stock looks well, and while the farms originally were not of the most fertile type, they are to-day in a good state of production. The people are very industrious, honest and thrifty. A number of them occupy official positions in the county. J. V. Hanzlik is deputy treasurer, and also president of the Bohemian Slavonic Fire Insurance Company. Joseph Wagner is a county supervisor, and a number of others occupy minor official positions. Hundreds, yes, thousands of acres of land have been cleared up and put into cultivation by these people, and the neighborhood at New Bohemia is a good illustration of what has been and may be accomplished.

There are four Catholic churches in the county—one at New Bohemia, two near the county courthouse, in Prince George county, and one in Dinwiddie county.

## More Are Coming.

New settlers are coming into this territory almost continually, and are buying very good farm lands at prices ranging from \$10 to \$30 per acre.

Very few, if any, of the settlers have left, and there is no question but what this section offers better inducements to Bohemians with small means, and who want to locate in a fine climate with good social surroundings than is offered by most any other section of the country. Petersburg, with a population of 30,000, is only four or five miles distant. Richmond with a population of 130,000 is about twenty-five miles, and Norfolk, with a population of over 60,000, lies seventy-five miles to the east. The Norfolk and Western Railway Company's experimental farm at Ivor, Va., is only about thirty miles distant, and this railroad company offers every encouragement to "new-comers" who settle in this territory.

Inducements Are Yet Offered. There are dozens of farmers around New Bohemia who came here not many years ago with little or no capital and are worth from five to fifty thousand dollars apiece to-day. New settlers are welcome, and any good, industrious, honest Bohemian with energy and willingness to work can make a success here if he can anywhere.

The Pyle & Company Association, at Petersburg, has been very active in interesting Bohemians in this section, and in locating them satisfactorily after they come down. They will be glad to answer any and all questions, or a letter addressed to any of the Bohemian settlers will receive a prompt reply.

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HEARD AND SEEN  
IN OLD HANOVER

(Continued From First Page.)

Wickham was a great man in more ways than one.

Things in War Times. This is historic ground, this ground from which I write, for he it remembered that one of the most important battles in the War Between the States was fought out right here. Two hundred yards from where I now sit were the Confederate lines and breastworks; 300 yards or more in the other direction were the Federal lines and breastworks. Both extended across country from Little River to the North Anna

River. The big fight is known in history as the battle of Hanover Junction, the object of the Federals being to capture Hanover Junction, three miles from here, where the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac cross, thus to cut the Confederate's railway communication; and, of course, the strenuous effort of the Confederates was to save the railway facilities.

The Confederates saved the day for the time being, and the Federals got an awful licking just here. Hanover Junction is not now on the map, for about twenty years ago the Post-Office Department of the United States government demanded that the name of the station and railway crossing and the post-office should be changed, for the reason that there was a Hanover Junction up in Maryland or Pennsylvania. The name was changed, and

the place was called Doswell, in honor of the late Thomas Doswell, a fine old Virginia gentleman, and a horse breeder and horse trainer of national reputation. Doswell is a good enough name I suppose, and Tom Doswell was a good man to be honored, but Hanover Junction in Virginia was historic, and its name should not have been obliterated. The Maryland or Pennsylvania Hanover Junction should have been changed, I do not know but what it is time enough yet for the Confederate camps and the Confederate women to enter a protest and have yet another change of name.

Down to Date. But all of this is history, and somewhat ancient history at that, and not industrial and agricultural lore, and these latter are my hobbies. I am told that the farmers in this northwest corner of Hanover use very little fertilizer, and that they make good crops. They raise wheat, twenty bushels to the acre; corn, sixty bushels to the acre, and oats in abundance. They also make the finest potatoes, especially sweet potatoes, to be found in the land, and a well-posted and hard-working farmer assured me this morning that this is the finest trucking land in the State, the Eastern Shore and the Princess Anne and the Norfolk county regions not excepted. And then these "water-millions, growing" on the vine. Perhaps the best and most profitable farm product in this immediate section is tobacco, for the farms hereabouts make the very best of the famous sun-cured leaf tobacco. In late years, that is, within the past four or five years, the farmers have been giving more attention to hay than formerly, but they have not yet caught on to alfalfa as vigorously as they might. However, I learn that some ten or fifteen miles above here several horny-handed sons of toil, among them Rosewell Page, have succeeded quite well with alfalfa.

Natural Weakness. The trouble, as I see it, among the farmers in this section is that they have not yet quite mastered the art of intensive farming. The farmers own too much land. In the last few days I have run up with fellows who are scratching over from 500 to 2,000 acres, and making no more than a common living. They need to sell off many acres and buckle down to a smaller space and more intensive farming. This weakness, however, is natural, for I have run up with Hanoverites, as I have run up with big land owners in other parts of the State, who think it a sin to sell off the ancestral possessions, and they just will not do it unless hard times force them to. There are men within the sound of a farm bell from where I write who are holding ancestral estates of from 500 to 3,000 acres and letting them grow up to a great extent in weeds. Sentiment, you see. Misguided sentiment.

A Change in Sight. Nevertheless, there is a change coming over the spirit of the dreams of some of them, and I predict that within the next few years the northwest division of Hanover is going to be cut up into small farms and the same worked on the intensive plan. The farm I am now writing from was once a 3,000 acre proposition. It has been cut down for one cause and another until it is now several farms. Five years or more ago Charles Goodloe, a level-headed business man, bought the home tract, including the old house I have told about. He soon found that 500 acres was more land than he wanted, and this year he sold off 300 of them to some Ohio folks, who will take possession this fall, and cut it up into three farms, each to be run on the intensive principle by men who have gotten their training in Ohio. They are Frank Brown, Alonzo Pancake and Joseph Pancake. From a very limited and most carefully conducted interview I have had with one of the trio, I gather the idea that these Ohioans are going to introduce the Middle West intensive ideas, and I have no doubt they will show the old timers many tricks worth knowing.

Several very large farms have recently been sold in this section to people who propose to cut them up into smaller places and sell off to intensive farmers. I can name only one. Just above here is a 1,000-acre place that was owned by R. L. Christian, of Richmond. He has sold it to a Pennsylvania syndicate which is now out-

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ting it up into 50, 75 and 100-acre farms, and propose to settle upon these diminished farms a colony of thirty and hard-working Swedes. Some other large farms have recently been bought in this neighborhood to be treated in like manner, but lack of space admonishes me not to go into particulars.

## Wanted Opportunities.

The big farm owners are not the only old fogies I have heard of in this section. Just to illustrate: Down here in Little River there is a magnificent water power that is capable of making this section a manufacturing centre, but it is owned by a syndicate composed of a Virginia man and some Pennsylvania folks, who will neither develop the power or sell it to people who will. They seem to think they have a gold mine in this power, just a half a mile from Verdon Station, and another gold mine in a greater power in North Anna River, a mile from the station, capable of developing 300 horsepower. I am told that this Little River power, which has been partially developed and once ran a flouring mill, which has been allowed by its present owners to go to rack, is capable of developing 100 horsepower from the neglected and abandoned dam in the river, down stream 200 yards, there is a natural fall of from seventy-five to 100 feet, and yet the owners of this power are allowing it to lie idle.

Good Efforts That Failed. A few years ago a Richmond concern offered a big price for it, with a view of establishing here an excelsior mill. Later a Western capitalist offered good money for it, with the view of starting several industries here. Later still the Richmond and Chesapeake Bay Railway people tried to buy it. The people who own this power in Little River, as stated, also own the power one mile from here, in North Anna River, and they will not develop it and will not sell to people who will develop. If either or both of these powers were developed, and dynamos put in to convey electric power to Verdon and to Doswell, the two places would soon be important manufacturing points. Canning factories, excelsior factories, pickle factories, tanneries and other industries could be established and made to pay big dividends, besides furnishing a market for the farmers, who would raise all manner of truck to supply the canning factories, would cut the pine timber, which is here in abundance, to furnish an excelsior mill, and would grow cucumbers and other things to supply a pickling factory. I am told that the Heinz Pickling and Canning Company once tried to get possession of this water power in Little River for the purpose of establishing here a big pickling factory.

What a blessing such a thing would be to the farmers hereabouts and to the community in general, but the folks who own the power are apparently unapproachable. I wonder if the industrial department of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, which is largely interested in such matters, might not get behind this water power here and by some means induce some kind of a development. I do not know about the Pennsylvania end of the syndicate that owns these powers and plays the dog in the manger game, but I am told that the Virginia end of it is Nelson F. Noland, whose post-office, I believe, is Verdon.

The farmers around here tell me that they can grow all of the raw material that canning factories, excelsior factories and pickle factories established here could possibly consume, and would be glad to do it.

Farmers Who Are Making Good. Among the leading farmers I have run up against in this northwest corner of Hanover, some of whom own entirely too much land, may be mentioned the following: Dr. H. B. Anderson, W. L. Holmes, R. N. Allen, Charles Dabney, J. B. Pierce, Dr. Richards, J. W. Cardwell, R. J. Sharpe, S. J. Anderson, J. T. Lowry, Charles Goodloe, Sam Terry, John Campbell, Charles H. Oliver, W. M. Lowry, Henry McKay, G. R. Luck, J. P. Montgomery and a lot of others whose names escape me just at the moment.

Northwest Hanover is a good country, good for crops of the best kind, good for cattle, good for sheep raising, good for hogs, good for the grasses and for all manner of vegetables, and exceedingly good for good people and nice, fresh Hanover watermelons. If the people will just abandon the big farm idea and get right down to intensive farming on smaller space, they will soon see a prosperity that they have not yet known, not even in the very best of "crap" years. And they are getting to that, slowly, it is true, but they are getting there.

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